THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE STUDY OF LEXICAL UNITS "TAUTOLOGY" AND "PLEONASM" IN MODERN RUSSIAN

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Abstract
This article discusses theoretical approaches to the study of lexical units "tautology" and "pleonasm" in modern Russian. Their nature, functions in the text and the relationship between them are analyzed. Special attention is paid to the difference between conscious and unconscious use of these phenomena, their stylistic and communicative functions. The issues of lexical redundancy and its perception in the modern linguistic consciousness are also touched upon.

Keywords: tautology, pleonasm, vocabulary, speech redundancy, stylistics, repetition, linguistic consciousness.

Introduction

Modern linguistics actively explores the phenomena of speech redundancy, among which tautology and pleonasm occupy a special place. Despite the fact that these terms are often used synonymously, there are significant differences between them both in terms of their lexical nature and in their functional and stylistic implementation. The relevance of this study is due to the need for a clear distinction between these concepts, which is important for both theoretical linguistics and applied disciplines, including stylistics, rhetoric, speech culture and Russian language teaching.

Tautology and pleonasm as forms of speech redundancy are found not only in everyday speech, but also in the artistic, journalistic and scientific fields. Their use can be either erroneous, violating the norms of literary language, or deliberate as an expressive means. This makes it necessary to conduct a comprehensive analysis of these phenomena, including both lexico-semantic, pragmatic and stylistic aspects.

The purpose of this article is to explore the theoretical aspects of the lexical units "tautology" and "pleonasm", to identify differences and similarities between them, as well as to determine their place and role in modern Russian.

1. The concept and classification of tautology and pleonasm

Tautology (from the Greek. tautology — "the same thing" + "word, utterance") is the repetition of identical or similar words, expressions within the same utterance. In the classical sense, tautology is a redundancy of utterance in which repetition does not add new information. For example: "buttery butter", "rise up", "the true truth".

There are several types of tautology in linguistics:

• Lexical tautology is the repetition of the same word or its derivatives: "he talked, talked, and kept talking."

• Semantic tautology is the use of words that duplicate each other in meaning: "the main point", "unexpected surprise".

 Grammatical tautology is the repetition of homogeneous grammatical constructions without semantic necessity: "if he had come, if he had been."

Tautology can be perceived as a speech error, especially in scientific and business texts. However, in artistic speech, folklore, and public speaking, it often performs an expressive, rhythmic, or structure-forming function.

Pleonasm (from Greek πλεονασμός - excess, abundance) is an excessive expression of thought in which some elements of a statement repeat or clarify the content of others unnecessarily. Unlike tautology, pleonasm can be both lexical, syntactic, and even morphological.

Examples of pleonasm are: "my autobiography" (personal biography by definition), "pre-planning", "going back".

The classification of pleonasms can be as follows:

• Lexical pleonasms — the use of redundant combinations: "the main basis".

• Syntactic pleonasm — duplication of syntactic elements, for example: "he said what he said."

• Contextual pleonasm — redundancy that manifests itself only in a specific context.

Pleonasms often arise in speech as a result of the speaker's desire for clarification, enhancement, and emotional expressiveness. In some cases, they turn into stable expressions and are perceived as normative: "the most optimal", "the cover of darkness at night".

Tautology and pleonasm converge in function (redundancy, reinforcement), but differ in form and origin. Tautology is more often manifested as a repetition of identical or single-root units, while pleonasm is expressed through an excessive combination of words with a similar meaning.

In addition, tautology is more often condemned as a logical or stylistic error, whereas pleonasm can serve a decorative or clarifying function.

2. The functions of tautology and pleonasm in the text

Tautology and pleonasm are traditionally considered to be manifestations of redundancy, but their functioning in the text does not always amount to a violation of the norm. Under certain conditions, these phenomena perform a number of important communicative, stylistic and pragmatic functions, which makes them appropriate and even necessary in some genres of speech.

From the point of view of communication, tautology and pleonasm can perform the following tasks:

• Highlighting important information. Repetition or clarification is used to focus the listener's or reader's attention on the key element of the message.: "we have to, we just have to win."

• Ensuring the clarity of the statement. Pleonastic constructions can compensate for the potential ambiguity of the message: "pre-planning" emphasizes the early stage of the process.

• Creating rhythmic and logical completeness. Repetition has a structure that promotes better memorization and perception, especially in oral speech.

Thus, speech redundancy can be a strategic tool for effective communication.

In stylistics, tautology and pleonasm play an important role as expressive means. They are used to create an artistic image, enhance the emotional impact, expressiveness and musicality of the text.

• Emotional expression. For example, in poetry or colloquial speech: "he is alone, all alone" — repetition serves to convey a feeling of loneliness.

• Creating imagery. Pleonasm in poetry often performs the function of figurative reinforcement: "eternal eternity", "bitter sadness".

• A rhetorical device. In public speaking, repetition enhances the impact: "We are the people! We are a force!

Thus, in certain speech registers, tautology and pleonasm are not a mistake, but, on the contrary, enrich the text stylistically.

From a pragmatic point of view, these phenomena are considered as means of influencing the addressee and reflecting the speaker's intentions.

• Markers of confidence or indecision. For example: "it's absolutely accurate, I'm sure" — pleonasm expresses conviction.

• Manipulation of attention. Repetition can be used to impose a certain judgment: "he did the same thing over and over again" — here repetition forms an evaluative position.

• Intonation marking. In oral speech, pleonasm and tautology are accompanied by a specific intonation that signals the meaning and emotional coloring of the utterance.

Thus, tautology and pleonasm are important means of pragmatic organization of speech and can be considered as elements of the speaker's communicative strategy.

3. Tautology and pleonasm as a subject of normative and stylistic assessment in the Russian language

The redundancy of speech in the form of tautology and pleonasm often becomes the object of criticism from experts on speech culture. However, the attitude towards these phenomena is ambiguous and depends on the functional style, genre, purpose of utterance and context.

From the standpoint of normative grammar and lexicology, tautology and pleonasm are most often assessed as speech errors, especially in scientific, official business and journalistic styles. For example:

• "pre—planning" is an excessive combination, since "planning" already assumes a preliminary character.

• "the true truth", "I came back", "the main point" are considered a violation of language economy. Such phrases are criticized for reducing the informative value of the text, logical unreasonableness, and loss of accuracy. Orthoepic and stylistic dictionaries, as well as manuals on speech culture, indicate the inadmissibility of using such expressions in normative written speech.

However, from the point of view of language dynamics, there is a tendency to weaken the strictness of norms: a number of pleonastic constructions are fixed in the language as stable expressions and begin to be perceived as normative.

In artistic, colloquial, and journalistic speech, tautologies and pleonasms are often used consciously to express expression, enhance intonation, convey emotions, and create a stylistic effect. For example:

• "He was absolutely, completely alone" — the repetition highlights the emotional intensity.

• "With my own hands" — enhancing expressiveness and concreteness.

• "Plan an operation in advance" is a formal pleonastic expression often used in the professional field.

Thus, the assessment of these phenomena depends on the author's goals, the genre of the text, the style and the expectations of the audience. In some cases, the use of tautology and pleonasm may be considered acceptable, while in others it is a violation of the norm.

Modern research suggests that the norm of language is a mobile category. Some previously condemned forms become acceptable over time. For example, the expressions "today" and "joint cooperation" are increasingly found in the speech of politicians, journalists, and teachers, which contributes to their legalization in the mass consciousness.

Pleonasms, especially in professional and bureaucratic discourses, often acquire functional significance — they clarify, concretize, and formalize. This leads to a partial reassessment of their role in the language.

4. The causes and mechanisms of the appearance of tautologies and pleonasm in speech

The appearance of tautologies and pleonasms in oral and written speech is due not only to insufficient knowledge of the norms of the literary language, but also to a number of psycholinguistic, cognitive and socio-cultural factors. These phenomena often appear not as a result of speech negligence, but as a consequence of internal patterns of linguistic thinking and communication.

From the point of view of psycholinguistics, tautologies and pleonasms arise as a result of natural processes occurring during the formation of an utterance.:

• Redundancy as a means of increasing confidence. The speaker, not being completely sure that he will be understood correctly, tends to repeat or duplicate information: "I know this for sure."

• The mechanism of autosemantization. In spontaneous speech, a person resorts to repeating or adding synonymous expressions to fill in pauses or gain time to build a phrase.

• Redistribution of meanings. When stable expressions are combined with a specific context, a temporary "blurring" of meaning occurs, as a result of which the use of pleonastic constructions is possible: "personal autobiography of an athlete."

Thus, human speech is influenced by cognitive strategies aimed at simplifying and ensuring successful communication.

The frequency and typicality of the use of tautology and pleonasm is influenced by the socio-cultural environment, the level of education, belonging to certain professional and social groups.:

• Bureaucratic style. In official business speech, pleonastic expressions are often used for the sake of legal accuracy: "preliminary draft plan", "planned forecast".

• Means of rhetorical influence. In political and advertising rhetoric, pleonasm and tautology are used as a tool of suggestion and memorization: "the best of the best", "reliable and proven".

• Language fashion. Under the influence of media and social networks, stable pleonastic constructions that are perceived as "prestigious", despite their redundancy, enter the language.

It is also worth considering the influence of bilingualism and interference, especially in a multilingual environment, where tautology may be the result of tracing or mixing structures of different languages.

Speech inertia, that is, the automatism of using frequently occurring expressions, is also a factor contributing to the spread of tautology and pleonasm. People often reproduce phrases without thinking about their internal logic. An example is combinations like "true truth", "really real".

Such cliches are fixed in the language and function as ready-made templates that allow you to save cognitive effort during speech activity.

5. Tautology and pleonasm in the practice of teaching the Russian language

The study of tautologies and pleonasm in the framework of teaching Russian as a native or foreign language is of great importance for the formation of speech culture, text editing skills and the development of critical thinking. The methodology of working with these phenomena includes not only their recognition, but also an assessment of relevance, stylistic function and normativity. One of the tasks of the teacher is to develop students' ability to recognize redundant constructions in speech. To do this, apply:

• Text analysis exercises. Students are encouraged to find and explain tautologies or pleonasm in newspaper and journalistic texts, fiction, and business correspondence.

• Comparative analysis. The juxtaposition of stylistically neutral and redundant forms contributes to the formation of a sense of linguistic norm.

• Game and training tasks. For example, the reformulation of tautological expressions without loss of meaning.

It is important that learning includes not only prohibitive attitudes, but also an understanding of the functions of these phenomena in language.

Editing speech excesses is an important stage in the training of future journalists, editors, and teachers. In this context, the work with tautologies and pleonasms is aimed at:

• Development of analytical skills. Students are taught to see not only grammatical errors, but also semantic excesses.

• Development of stylistic flair. Through the selection of synonyms, the elimination of repetitions and the replacement of lexical constructions, the ability to speak accurately and expressively is developed.

• Mastering the norms of different styles. It is especially important to understand where redundancy is acceptable and where it is not: for example, in scientific and business style it should be avoided, and in artistic style it should be used consciously.

Working with tautologies and pleonasm is particularly difficult for students of Russian as a foreign language. For such students:

• Systematization is necessary. The use of stable but excessive expressions may seem to be the norm, especially if they are widespread in the media.

• A contextual approach is used. Pleonasm is explained through the situation of use: when it is appropriate and when it is undesirable.

• Cross-language comparisons are used. For example, based on the student's native language, interference is detected, which can generate tautology.

Thus, teaching aspects of tautology and pleonasm contributes not only to improving speech literacy, but also to developing students' stylistic thinking.

6. Conclusion

Tautology and pleonasm, being manifestations of speech redundancy, occupy an important place in the theory and practice of the modern Russian language. Their study is of interest both from the point of view of lexicology and stylistics, as well as from the standpoint of pragmatics and psycholinguistics. Despite the fact that these phenomena are traditionally considered as speech errors, the modern linguistic approach requires a more flexible and contextual assessment of their role.

The analysis showed that tautology and pleonasm can perform significant communicative, stylistic and pragmatic functions, contributing to increased expressiveness, accentuation of information and the formation of a certain intonation and emotional effect. At the same time, their excessive or unconscious use in neutral and formal communication can reduce the quality of speech, violate the norm and make perception difficult.

Working with these lexical units in educational practice is of particular importance, both in teaching native and foreign Russian. The formation of students' ability to recognize, evaluate and correctly use tautologies and pleonasm contributes to the improvement of the general culture of speech, the development of stylistic flair and text editing skills.

Thus, tautology and pleonasm are not just "linguistic errors", but also complex linguistic phenomena that require careful and multidimensional analysis. Their study allows for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of language functioning, and also contributes to the formation of more accurate, expressive and conscious speech practice in the modern language space.

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